

defines that the driving signal is supplied to both of the first displacement part and the second displacement part.

Both of new claims 18 and 22 are believed to be allowable as they include language similar to language included in amended claim 4 (original claim 4 amended to be in independent form). New claims 19-21 are believed to be allowable also, as they depend from new claim 18.

CONCLSUION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

submitted,

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CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend claims 1, 4, and 14 as follows:

1. (Amended) A driving mechanism comprising:

a base;

a first displacement part which has a pair of ends and which can expand and contract between the pair thereof, in which one of the pair is supported by the base;

a second displacement part which has a pair of ends and which can expand and contract between the pair thereof, in which one of the pair is supported by the base; and

a resultant part which connects the other of the pair of the first displacement part and the other of the pair of the second displacement part to each other, in which the resultant part has a contact part that contacts a body to be driven by the contact part, wherein

the contact part can elastically deform in a direction in which the body is driven by the contact part, and

material and configuration of the base, of the first displacement part, of the second displacement part, and of the resultant part are selected so that resonant frequency of the resultant part in the direction in which the body is driven is generally equal to resonant frequency of the first displacement part and the second displacement part in a direction perpendicular to the direction in which the body is driven.

4. (Amended) [The] A driving mechanism [as claimed in claim 1,] comprising:
a base;

a first displacement part which has a pair of ends and which can expand and contract between the pair thereof, in which one of the pair is supported by the base;

a second displacement part which has a pair of ends and which can expand and contract between the pair thereof, in which one of the pair is supported by the base; and

a resultant part which connects the other of the pair of the first displacement part and the other of the pair of the second displacement part to each other, in which the resultant part has a contact part that contacts a body to be driven by the contact part,

wherein the contact part can elastically deform in a direction in which the body is driven by the contact part, and

the driving mechanism [which] further [comprises] comprising a driver which supplies the first displacement part with a first driving signal having a first phase and which supplies the second displacement part with a second signal having a second phase, in which the first phase is in one of a first state and in which the first phase is faster than the second phase by a predetermined phase difference, and a second state in which the first phase is slower than the second phase by a predetermined phase difference.

14. (Amended) An ultrasonic driving mechanism comprising:

an object to be driven;

at least one pair of electrical-mechanical energy transducers which vibrate with predetermined different phases to cause a resultant elliptical vibration, in which the electrical-mechanical energy transducers are provided generally symmetrically with respect to an axis that is generally perpendicular to a direction in which the object is driven; and

an elastically deformable part which is provided generally symmetrically with respect to the axis, in which the resultant elliptical vibration is transmitted to the object via the elastically deformable part, wherein

the object can be driven forward and backward by the elastically deform, and material and configuration of the at least one pair of electrical-mechanical energy transducers and of the elastically deformable part are selected so that resonant frequency of the elastically deformable part in the direction in which the object is driven is generally equal to resonant frequency of the at least one pair of electrical-mechanical energy transducers in a direction perpendicular to the direction in which the object is driven.